

Agricultural REVIEW

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Upcoming Zoom auxin training dates

Nine upcoming Zoom sessions for auxin training have been scheduled. Cooperative Extension offices across the state will be able to host small groups of 10 or fewer people to watch the training presentation live over an internet feed. Local agents will handle the logistics of logging into Zoom and setting up video stream to be viewed.

Following are upcoming dates:

March 2, 11, 15, 24 and 29.

More information about the training can be found in the pesticides section of the NCDA&CS website at <https://www.ncagr.gov/spcap/pesticides/auxin.htm>

Feral Swine Task Force receives \$2.6 million in grants

Each year feral swine cause about \$1.5 billion in damages to agricultural crops, landscaping and historic sites nationwide. They also carry diseases that pose significant risk to livestock, humans and pets and compete with our native wildlife for resources.

For the past several years the North Carolina Feral Swine Task Force has been holding listening sessions to better understand the growing issue of feral swine in the state. The task force meets quarterly to discuss effective strategies to eliminate feral swine across North Carolina.

North Carolina's Feral Swine Task Force has received more than \$2.6 million in grants to help combat the feral swine problem in six N.C. counties. Grants include

(See Feral Swine, pg. 3)



Feral swine cause an estimated \$1.5 billion in damages to agricultural crops annually.

Time to test tobacco float bed water

Successful production of tobacco transplants starts with good water quality and with getting the right nutrient levels in the float solution. Growers preparing for transplant production should begin by having their source water tested by the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

"Alkalinity, pH, sodium and chloride issues are the most common water quality problems we see with float bed source water in North Carolina," said Dr. Kristin Hicks, Plant/Waste/Solution/Media Section chief of the Agronomic Services Division. "By getting the source water tested, growers can address any of these issues early on before they have a chance to impact transplant quality. The results from testing and making adjustments can be quite significant."

After fertilizers have been mixed into the bays, growers should send in a sample of their nutrient solution to verify that target nutrient concentrations have been achieved. Testing of source water and nutrient solutions is available as a solution analysis through the Agronomic

Services Division.

The test measures total alkalinity, pH, electrical conductivity (soluble salts) and the concentration of 12 essential plant nutrients including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, manganese, zinc, copper, boron and chloride plus sodium. The NCDA&CS Solution Analysis Report provides this information as well as nutrient management recommendations by an agronomist.

Collecting & submitting nutrient solution samples

To collect a sample, use a clean, plastic bottle such as a 16-ounce soda or water bottle. Before filling the bottle, rinse it with the water being collected.

For source water—before sampling, run water 5 to 10 minutes and collect sample from the tap or emitter. Use the "ST" code for source water.

(See Agronomic tests, pg. 5)

From the tractor



Commissioner Troxler

At the end of February, I delivered my annual State of Agriculture speech, which was hosted by the N.C. Farm Bureau. I typically deliver this at the Southern Farm Show, but I was not able to do that this year because it was canceled due to the pandemic.

If you missed my talk, you can go to the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service

by Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler

Facebook page and watch the speech and also see an economic presentation by Dr. Blake Brown from N.C. State University.

I want to share a few highlights of where we are and what I see for the future.

On the positive, we are seeing higher commodity prices for a number of crops, including grains, cotton and peanuts, while sweet potato prices have remained steady. This is one of the most encouraging signs since farmers have been dealing with low commodity prices for a number of years. It's good to see this going in the right direction.

Another encouraging sign is the return of international trade with China.

Pork exports to China were up 20 percent last year. If we had more freezer space in North Carolina, we could have exported

even more. Poultry exports were also up 20 percent as we resumed trade with China.

Poultry exports to China alone went from nothing in 2018 to more than \$100 million in 2020.

Tobacco growers have also been encouraged that China is back and buying tobacco again. Our department has played a critical role in working with the new China Customs bureau to implement the new phytosanitary standards.

China was unable to travel to the United States because of COVID-19, so our International team did a full-length video on the entire phytosanitary process of exporting tobacco, enabling us to resume exports.

The Chinese market is important, but international trade in all parts of the world will be important to the future success of agriculture.

After all, 95 percent of the world population lives outside the United States.

In the last 10 years, exports of prepared foods have risen from just over \$45 million to almost \$400 million last year, proving that we cannot only grow food in North Carolina, but we can process it and sell it on the comparative international market.

Beer, wine and spirits were up more than 50 percent last year.

We have begun exporting sweet potatoes to the Middle East. Exports began in earnest last year, and this year NCDA&CS and the N.C. Sweet Potato Commission have begun a joint marketing venture to research and expand sales in the region to make it our next growth market.

(See Troxler, pg. 5)

Agricultural Review

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Troxler and Marshall to serve as co-chairs of state’s global coalition

Two of North Carolina’s longest-serving and most respected statewide elected leaders will serve as new co-chairs of the N.C. Coalition for Global Competitiveness (the Coalition). N.C. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and N.C. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler have agreed to lead the Coalition, which is a partnership of private and public sector leaders focused on enhanced global engagement. Both Marshall and Troxler have broad international experience, strong records of achievement, and a commitment to bipartisanship.

“North Carolina has a distinct opportunity to strengthen our position as a global leader by working together to enhance our competitiveness in business, education, health care, technology and many other crucial sectors to our economy,” said Sec. Marshall. “I’m honored to work with Commissioner Troxler to continue building on North Carolina’s reputation as great place to live, work, invest and visit.”

“With 95 percent of the world population living outside the United States, global trade is essential to North Carolina’s long-term agricultural success,”

Troxler said. “My goal is to help position North Carolina’s farmers and agribusinesses to meet the global demand for food and fiber and to continue to grow our state’s No. 1 industry. The work of the N.C. Coalition for Global Competitiveness offers a tremendous opportunity to benefit many North Carolinians and I look forward to working with Secretary Marshall to help steer us to a stronger future in international trade and global partnerships.”

The Coalition was founding in 2013 and formerly chaired by former Commerce Secretary Jim Fain. In 2015, the Coalition created the N.C. Blueprint for Global Engagement and N.C.’s Global Engagement Snapshot, a roadmap and online tool, to track the state’s path and progress toward global engagement. North Carolina is the first state to develop a roadmap for global engagement across all sections—education business, government, and community. In 2020, leaders from all around North Carolina provided input to shape the updated N.C. Blueprint for Global Engagement 2020, which focuses on strategic areas crucial to the advancement of global engagement.

Counties closest to urban areas seeing greater farmland loss

Local leaders look for ways to preserve farmland in the face of residential growth

Education and zoning laws are just a few of the ways that local leaders in North Carolina are hoping to fight farmland loss.

Between 2001 and 2016, around 6.7 percent of North Carolina’s total farmland was converted into residential and commercial land. That is the second highest percentage in the country during that time, and it accounts for over 730,000 acres of lost farmland. Much of that loss can be attributed to low-density residential development, a type of spread-out, sprawling construction which eats up land while providing relatively less tax revenue than commercial development or agricultural land.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the counties adjacent to the largest metropolitan areas in North Carolina. Union County – which acts as a bedroom community for Charlotte and Mecklenburg County – has seen a dramatic reduction in farmland since 2012, losing 7 percent of its agricultural land between then and 2017. The same is true in Johnston County, where people working in and near Raleigh look for more affordable housing just one county over.

Richard Helms, chairman

of the Union County Board of Commissioners, said that the board recognizes the importance of preserving agricultural land. The county is getting ready to open a new agricultural center which Helms hopes will help educate people on the importance of farmland.

“I often say that inheritance is one of the things that hits us the hardest when it comes to losing farmland,” he said. “Some young people or young families inherit farmland who are not farming anymore, and now they see that land as dollars instead of the opportunity to continue on that legacy. We have got to educate our people on the value of preserving that land.”

Of course, zoning laws also play a major role in determining what kind of freedom developers have to turn farmland into residential space. Counties often must balance maintaining agricultural land with opening up spaces for new businesses, which bring sought-after services as well as valuable tax revenue for the county.

Larry Wood, vice chairman of the Johnston County Board of Commissioners, sits on the county’s Voluntary Agricultural District board. He said that finding ways to bring development to rural areas is often a balancing act with preserving farmland, as even having



Above, people pick produce on a farm in Johnston County. This county has experienced some of the most severe farmland loss in North Carolina over the last decade.

residential development adjacent to a farm can cripple it.

“People want to have these amenities. They want to have Lowes’ Foods and Chik-Fil-A, but those companies aren’t going to come to rural areas with no rooftops,” he said. “I’m a municipality guy, I’m a small-town guy, and I tend to lean on the side of pushing development to towns where the services are.”

More concentrated development within municipal boundaries could be a solid strategy for fighting farmland loss, as building “up” instead of “out” reduces the volume of land needed to house a similar number of people. Changes to (See Farmland, pg. 3)



This photo shows low-density residential development, denoted by sprawling, single-family construction.

Meat and seafood processing grants already working in communities

A total of 57 applications were approved through the Increasing Meat Production Efficiency and Capacity grant program that was available through federal CARES Act funds.

Small meat and seafood processors could apply for grants to help increase their capacity. This program came about because many of these operations quickly reached capacity when consumers turned to local providers for protein products at the beginning of the pandemic. Around April 2020, ag leaders were hearing of processors already being booked through early 2021.

When the CARES ACT money became available, there were limitations on how it could be spent and when it had to be spent by.

“That didn’t give us a lot of time if we were going to make use of it, but I was determined we could put this to very good use in North Carolina and we would make that happen,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “We worked quickly to put this program together; accept, review and approve applications; and put the money to work.”

The long-term benefits for North Carolina’s agricultural community are great, allowing for more local sales of meat, which helps small processors and farmers alike.

Feedback on the program has been positive. One participating company is Custom Quality Packers, a pork processing facility in Sims in Wilson County.

It expects to see a 20-percent increase in capacity and

sales for 2021 thanks to the grant. In 2019, the operation processed about 55,000 hogs from 12 area farms.

This grant program allowed the company to invest in an automated rail system, cooler upgrades and other equipment that will increase capacity.

Middle Sound Mariculture in Wilmington, also received grant funding to purchase a new oyster tumbler and mobile refrigeration unit.

This investment is going to expand the oyster farm’s capacity, allowing it to expand into new markets. It expects to grow capacity from 8,000 oysters to more than 20,000.

Increasing local production also benefits consumers, (See IMPEC impacts, pg. 4)

Montague named NCDA&CS Employee of the Year

Robert “Rob” Montague’s involvement in the local community and his commitment to respond to wildfire emergencies – plus many other local emergencies – are major reasons he was recently recognized as the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 2020 Employee of the Year.

Montague is the North Carolina Forest Service area ranger for Granville and Vance counties, and he’s been with the state and the division for 17 years. In that time, he has not only proven to be a valuable employee, but also an asset to the community.

Montague was first selected as the NCDA&CS Employee of the Month in November 2020, and he was then selected as Employee of the Year from the pool of 2020 monthly honorees.

His supervisor Jennifer Roach nominated him. She is the district forester overseeing the counties where Montague works. In her nomination, Roach said, “as his supervisor, I receive multiple phone calls and emails from both the public and internal customers about the great service he has provided.”

She went on to say, “if you know Rob, you would know that he takes pride in a job well done. He takes pride in knowing that even the smallest tasks are done with efficiency and quality. His work ethic is not to sit around or watch things go by, but to offer help, to offer his services, or to offer solutions.”

Montague said his service to the community is his favorite part of the job. He doesn’t think of it very much as a job though.

“I’m fortunate enough that I can make a living doing what I want to do. If I couldn’t have



Rob Montague, area ranger for Granville and Vance counties, was recently named the 2020 NCDA&CS Employee of the Year.

so much contact with landowners, I wouldn’t find it as enjoyable,” Montague said. “The last word in N.C. Forest Service is ‘service.’ We’re here to help people, and I’m fortunate enough that that’s what I’m able to do.”

Montague mentioned that he loves building relationships with citizens over the years and helping them come up with plans for how to make the best use of their land. He loves that people turn to the N.C. Forest Service for guidance, even if that means they stop him in the grocery store to ask him

questions. He sees it as par for the course and an honor to be someone who citizens can turn to.

Most forest rangers focus on one county, but Montague has taken on responsibility for two – resulting in the “area” ranger title instead of “county” ranger. Roach said most area rangers prepare anywhere from 10 to 30 land management plans each year, but Montague wrote plans for 96 tracts last fiscal year. That’s work that could be left to other staff, but Montague’s degree in forestry and his desire to help means he enjoys handling many

of the forest management requests himself.

He says there’s a sense of pride in seeing people’s land and forest resources growing and being used. He knows some people grow timber with plans to retire or educate their children off of the money they earn.

“So much of the reward for me is to be here long enough to help people, whatever the task may be,” Montague said.

When he’s not helping with land management plans, he’s often carrying out education programs or other outreach. That means visiting schools, civic groups or local government meetings, or even hosting landowner meetings to share what the N.C. Forest Service does and how it can help citizens. In the fiscal year that included several months pre-pandemic and some months during the pandemic, Montague had 82 outreach events.

Montague also stands out when it comes to responding to wildfires and other emergencies – perhaps the most important responsibility of his position. He’s always sure it gets immediate attention. Sometimes, that means making sure his staff responds to an emergency, but most of the time Montague responds himself – whether it’s the middle of the day, the middle of the night or on a weekend. Even if he’s just sitting down to supper with his family, Montague will respond.

In Granville and Vance counties, there were 189 emergency responses or call-outs last fiscal year, and Montague went to 65 percent of them himself.

Because of his experience and dedication, local fire departments in both counties have come to depend on Montague and the N.C. Forest Service. He’s always listening to his emergency communications radio, so even when emergencies

aren’t related to wildfires, he’s willing to help if he can. That’s a big part of what’s made him such a part of the broader community.

He often responds to offer help when his chainsaw skills are needed, and local fire departments will call on him for that assistance. In another recent example, the local sheriff’s office contacted Montague to help in a search for a missing person. They knew they could count on him for help, and because of his work mapping out forestry land, he was able to produce detailed maps to help in the search.

Roach said whether it’s those emergency situations or just day-to-day work, Montague is always going the extra mile. She sometimes has to check in with him to be sure he’s taking the time off he deserves.

“He’s going to do the job to meet the needs of the community, and whether that’s working all day or all weekend that’s what he wants to do,” Roach said.

Again, Montague doesn’t really think of it as work though. He said he’s fortunate to have the support of his wife and teenaged son who understand his job and his dedication. He thinks of his job as a lifestyle – certainly not an “8 to 5” job. He also credits others he works with.

“This is not just me. It’s all the people in our organizations that support the Forest Service. These accomplishments for citizens couldn’t happen without a team effort from employees at the local to regional and state level,” Montague said. “I’m very proud to wear the uniform and be part of the organization.”

Farmland

(Continued from pg. 2)

county zoning ordinances – or the implementation of them in the first place – may be necessary to encourage or require that kind of development, however.

Johnston County is in the midst of revamping its zoning laws, Wood said. While the county is still early in the process, he said he believes it may be heading toward slowing down some of the rapid residential growth the county has experienced lately.

“We’ve changed some of the units-per-acre regulations, and some of the lot sizes,” he said. “I feel like there is a lean toward maybe slowing some of the growth down, or making the lots bigger and reserving some

of our sewer for businesses instead of residential.”

In Union County, zoning is a “hot topic” according to Helms. With a new water system in place in the northern and eastern parts of the county, Helms was optimistic about the future of agriculture in his community.

“A lot of people don’t realize just how dependent agriculture is on our water sources,” he said. “We’re paying a lot of attention to this. I’m not going to pre-announce what I’m trying to do, but we need have controlled, smart growth.”

For more information on farmland preservation, visit <https://www.ncadfp.org>.

Feral Swine

(Continued from pg. 1)

\$620,000 for Sampson County North, \$750,000 for Sampson County South and \$1.25 million for the Five-County Feral Swine Trap Grant. The grant programs will run through August 2023.

“We are excited about the development of real solutions to help our state’s feral swine problem,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Although these initial grants focus on six counties, the ultimate goal is the development of strategies that can be implemented statewide.”

The task force includes representatives from the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Veterinary and Soil and Water Conservation divisions, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, N.C. State Cooperative Extension, N.C. Division of Public Health and the USDA.

Part of the work of the task force is to gain better insight into the scope of our state’s feral swine problem. Recently, the task force has received three grants aimed to help develop resources to protect

state resources and start controlling the feral swine population.

The USDA grants were part of the most recent Farm Bill and focus on Sampson, Anson, Davie, Haywood, Montgomery and Randolph counties.

Sampson County is the center of the pilot feral swine eradication program that will help guide future management efforts across the state.

Landowners are working with professionals to learn where feral swine occur, measure the damages they cause and to develop effective removal strategies.

Sampson County was selected as a pilot county because of frequent feral swine sightings and crop damage. The county also includes numerous agricultural and livestock operations, including many of our commercial swine operations.

For this pilot program to be successful landowner cooperation is needed, Troxler said. Landowners can expect to work with feral swine management specialists to assess damages, place and maintain traps and remove feral swine from their property. Landowners can register

for the Sampson County Feral Swine Project online at www.ncferalswine.org.

The website also allows anyone to report feral swine sightings or damage. These reports can be from any county and will help the task force better map sightings and damage that occur across the state.

An additional grant of \$1.25 million will be used for the Five County Feral Swine Trap Grant. Counties included in this grant program are Anson, Davie, Haywood, Montgomery and Randolph.

Grant funds will be used to purchase 50 traps, trail cameras and drones for use by landowners in these counties. The goal is to have the traps purchased this year so landowners can begin to sign up as early as late summer on the Feral Swine Task Force web site. The goal is to have 10 traps available to each county in the program for use.

More information can be found online at www.ncferalswine.org



NC’s research stations stay busy during the winter

Even in winter, crews keep busy on agricultural research stations

A farmer’s work is never done, even in what’s sometimes called the “dead of winter.” The same is true for North Carolina’s agricultural research stations. They operate as working farms with a platform for agricultural research. So even if there’s not as much activity as in the summer months, the state’s 18 research stations are far from ghost towns this time of year.

Several of the research stations have livestock, which must be cared for year round. Neither winter nor the coronavirus pandemic will change that. The pandemic has certainly cutback on some activity at the stations in all seasons though. Nonetheless, many things continue as normal during the winter – from work in crop fields, to new construction and administrative and educational activity.

The director of the Research Stations Division Teresa Lambert said several stations have been “topdressing” wheat lately, which means they’re spraying the wheat with nitrogen fertilizer. William Murrow, the superintendent of the Mountain Research Station in Waynesville, mentioned milk research that’s continuing over the winter. In fact, several stations have ongoing research that continues through the winter months. (See below for more



In December, the Upper Mountain Research Station hosted a Christmas tree collection, where area growers and the N.C. Christmas Tree Association donated trees to service members. The Christmas trees were collected at the station, loaded onto a truck and shipped to Fort Hood, Texas.

examples.) For many stations, a reprieve from the major growing season provides an opportunity for maintenance, educational sessions and paperwork such as placing fertilizer orders.

Here are just a few examples of what’s going on at some research stations in the winter months:

At the Peanut Belt Research Station in Lewiston-Woodville, superintendent Creig Deal described a variety of activities that sound pretty typical for any farm in the winter. His crew has been cleaning, repairing and improving equipment such as the fertilizer injector on a corn planter. They moved the

injector so it would work better in the coming year. He said even on the best days equipment breaks down, but winter maintenance can cut down on future problems.

“We’re getting ready for the new year, just like a farmer would do,” Deal said. “We try to get all the equipment in, get it clean, then we can work on it. If there’s anything worn out, we can work on it. So when the [research] project leaders are here in the spring we’re ready to plant.”

There’s also been repainting of buildings as time and weather allows, plus a little construction. The mechanical shop has recently

been expanded by enclosing a shelter that was attached to the existing shop. It still needs additional work to be fully functional, but the new space will allow the crew to work on larger tractors and other equipment indoors.

“Winter also provides us time to do the educational stuff that we don’t have time to do in the summer,” Deal said.

Some of his crew members take crop-related classes. He and the station’s farm manager take other farm management classes. These are typical for all the stations across the state, and these days they’re all still happening as virtual

meetings online.

In February, the station is also undertaking its annual peanut shelling task to have peanuts ready to plant in the spring. If a water and irrigation monitoring research project is reapproved, the Peanut Belt crew will also tackle installing new pipes before spring.

All the while, there’s a crop of sage still in the field also. It’s part of a multi-year research project.

“There’s always something to do every day. We are never without a job,” Deal said.

The Upper Mountain Research Station in Laurel Springs is in the process of building a new livestock handling facility, but it’s been so cold and wet, progress has been slower than superintendent Tracy Taylor had hoped for. Nonetheless, Taylor said it’s been a good time to get some newer crew members more familiar with the station. There’s still livestock to tend and some crops to care for. There’s ongoing bioenergy research involving some trees on the station, and Christmas tree research continued into December. There’s also a small grain (i.e., wheat) trial continuing over the winter.

“One thing I’m proud of is that we’re still running one hundred percent of our research programs,” Taylor said. “COVID canceled a lot of stuff, but we’re still able to provide the same (See Research stations, pg. 5)

IMPEC impacts

(Continued from pg. 2)

giving them more access to locally raised products, Troxler said.

At the beginning of the pandemic with the closure of restaurants and schools, the supply chains had to adjust and adjust quickly to meet consumer demand.

“But we also saw consumers looking to farmers markets, roadside stands, and on-farm markets to help meet their needs,” Troxler said. “We want to be able to help local farmers continue to serve their communities, and that was the thought behind these processor and seafood grants.”

Braswell Farm

(Continued from pg. 8)

day to day. Employees of Braswell Family Farm are busy in the chicken houses every day and night, feeding, watering and nurturing the animals. “One day I might be walking in manure pits checking for maintenance issues and the next I might be developing and supporting our leadership team,” Trey says, “but we care deeply for our birds and have people staffed every hour of every day to ensure they have the best care possible.” Trey and his family are also members of the Got to Be NC program because they are proud supporters of our state’s agriculture industry. In fact, Trey serves as Board President of the North Carolina Egg Association, where he helps promote buying local eggs. Trey is continuing a legacy in this position as well since his grandfather, Ronald Braswell, was elected to the board in 1974.

The Braswell families busiest time of year is during the holiday season throughout Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. “Contrary to popular belief, Easter does not seem to be the biggest egg consuming holiday anymore,” Trey said, “Christmas seems to take the cake.” One Christmas tradition for his family is to use Braswell Family Farm eggs with Bass Farm sausage and a variety of veggies to make a delicious egg casserole.

Products from their farm can be found at a variety of local retail chains under various labels, including Eggland’s Best Eggs and Natural Choice. “Getting to provide for people, our workers and the community at large, is incredibly rewarding,” Trey said, “we want the relationships we establish to not simply be transactional but impactful. Our priority is to glorify God in all we do and to better the lives of those we meet.”

Support
N.C. farmers



Buy Local

March AgroTips

Test for nematodes before planting vegetables.

Nematodes pose a major threat to nearly all vegetable crops in all soils. Unless you intend to apply a preplant fumigant, it is a good idea to collect soil samples for nematode assay before seedlings are planted and mulched. Any steps to prevent nematode problems must be taken long before the crop is established. For information on collecting and submitting samples for nematode assay, visit www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/uyrnm.htm.

In home gardens, no chemicals are available for nematode management. However, there are some plant cultivars with resistance to root-knot nematodes. See NemaNote 12 for details.

Now is the time to collect tissue samples from wheat.

Depending on where you live, you may need to sample now (eastern counties) or wait until late March (western counties). The best time to take tissue samples is when the wheat is at Zadoks Growth Stage 30 or Feekes Stage 4–5. At these growth stages, stems are upright and tillering has stopped. To collect a sample, break wheat plants off about 1/2 inch above the ground. Each sample should consist of about two handfuls of wheat—a composite gathered from 10 to 20 areas throughout the field. A pictorial guide to tissue sampling is available online at www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pictorial.htm. Be sure to read the new wheat sampling and fertilization guidelines from NCSU.

When growing peanuts, use agronomic tests to monitor zinc levels in the soil.

Growers who value the prime farmland where peanuts are produced should consider using alternate sites for waste application. Peanuts are very sensitive to certain metals found in waste, particularly zinc. Soils with NCDA&CS zinc index (Zn-I) values as low as 300 can be toxic to peanuts, even though other crops can tolerate levels up to Zn-I=2000.

In some areas, soil test data for peanut land already appear to show increases in zinc levels, indicating that waste is being applied to these fields. An important aspect of managing sites where waste is applied is to maintain a pH of 6.0–6.5. Low soil pH increases the availability and toxicity of metals.

Apply lime now if recommended by your soil report.

By now, you should have already submitted soil samples and received your report. If lime is recommended, go ahead and apply it as soon as possible. For lawns, you may want to aerate the ground before application to maximize the ability of the lime to move into the soil profile. Liming soils to the target pH of the intended crop increases availability of plant nutrients already in the soil and supplies additional calcium and/or magnesium. Since liming can take up to 6 months to adjust pH, it is important to apply lime as far in advance of planting as possible.

Research stations

(Cont'd from pg. 4)

level of service for our research projects.”

The coronavirus pandemic has put a halt to just about every special event that was planned at the station and any of the state’s research stations. There are usually tours, demonstrations, trainings and other activities for the general public and others involved in agricultural industry or academic research. Field days, which give extension agents and researchers an opportunity to provide information to others in agriculture, were changed to virtual meetings online.

The Upper Mountain Research Station was able to still host a Christmas Tree collection event for Trees For Troops, but it was a much smaller event than usual. It’s the only event the station has hosted since the pandemic began.

Christmas tree farmers with the North Carolina Christmas Tree Association took loads of Christmas trees to the station. The trees were then loaded onto a FedEx truck and shipped to Ft. Hood in Texas.

“That’s just a neat event for the station because trees are in short supply, but our growers still see the value in donating trees, especially this year,” Taylor said. “It feels good to be able to help out especially those military servicemembers.”

At the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton, the crew has also been servicing equipment, getting ready for a safety audit and getting the greenhouse ready. By the end of February, the team will have seeded stevia in greenhouse trays. Stevia is known as a sweet-tasting substitute for sugar, and it’s being studied as a new and emerging crop for the state. Station superintendent Hunter Barrier said the research has continued over a few winters now, and researchers are still working to answer many questions related to stevia’s viability as a profitable North Carolina crop.



Construction is now complete on a sweet potato building at the Horticultural Crops Research Station in Clinton .

Red beets and carrots continue to grow at the station this winter as part of research trials, along with some hybrid poplar trees and a few cover crops that are part of research projects. Also by the end of February, sorting sweet potato seed stock will have begun. Sweet potato research is a major focus of the work at the station.

The station just recently finished construction of a new building for sweet potato storage and research workspace. Barrier said the older sweet potato storage buildings are still in use, but they simply no longer had enough room for all the research work. The first sweet potatoes were moved into the building in the second half of January.

The new facility holds material (i.e., selected sweet potatoes) for breeding work and for seed stock that could be used in future plantings. That means there’s space for sorting sweet potatoes and collecting research data, and there’s space to store small plastic bins that hold various sweet potato varieties.

“There’s a lot of sorting and going through sweet potato samples and seeing what project leaders want to plant,” Barrier said. “So we need room to get in there and sort everything out. We have more room to work now.”

“It takes a lot of preparation to get ready for the field work,” he said.

Troxler

(Continued from pg. 1)

Looking ahead, I see increased opportunities and expect that to further fuel growth for North Carolina farmers.

Among other bright spots, are the following investments being made in North Carolina agriculture:

Big Idea Ventures, a global leader in early-stage alternative protein investing, recently announced the launch of the Generation Food Rural Partners fund. N.C. State University will be its inaugural collaborator. This is a \$125 million target fund that will fuel economic development in rural communities across the United States through the commercialization of food and agricultural technologies, protein innovation and other university intellectual property.

Both the Plant Sciences Initiative at NCSU and the N.C. Food Innovation Lab in Kannapolis are expected to have positive impacts on agriculture and agribusiness across North Carolina. Both of these initiatives position our state to lead the way

in facing the challenges of feeding a growing global population.

The soon-to-open Agriculture Sciences Center, a state-of-the-art lab and office space that will replace four NCDA&CS divisions’ labs and offices – Food and Drug Protection, Standards, Veterinary and Structural Pest and Pest Control.

The Forest Development Program, which assists landowners with long-term forest management plans, technical assistance for site preparation and replanting costs. This has received state and industry funding in the past, but now relies solely on industry support. With ongoing focus on increasing such environmental benefits as carbon sequestration, water quality and climate resiliency, we will be working to increase state investment in tree planting.

I encourage you to take a look at the full speech online for more about the state of North Carolina agriculture.

Agronomic tests

(Continued from pg. 1)

Solution Source Water

- SP Pesticide Solution
- SH Hydroponic-Nutrient
- SF Floriculture Production
- >ST Tobacco Transplant Production
- SV Vegetable Transplant Production
- SO Other *

For nutrient solutions— Make sure fertilizer has been thoroughly mixed and is completely dissolved. Collect the sample from the emitter NOT the stock tank. Use the “NT” code for nutrient solutions.

Please specify if you are using an organic nutrient solution.

Nutrient Solution

- NS General (indicate target conc. in comments)
- > NT Tobacco
- NL Pour-thru Leachate
- NO Other *

Label each sample with a sample ID and fill out the Solution Analysis Information form. Forms are available from the Agronomic Division office in Raleigh, regional agronomists, county extension centers and agribusiness outlets. They also are available on the Agronomic Division website at <http://www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/pdffiles/issoln.pdf>

The turnaround time for results is typically three to four days from the receipt of samples. Cost is \$5 for North Carolina residents or \$25 for out-of-state samples.

Samples should be mailed to the NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Solutions Section at either:

Mailing address (USPS):

1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

Physical address (UPS, FedEx):

4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh NC 27607

For questions about how to collect samples or interpret reports, contact the Agronomic Division at 919-733-2655. NCDA&CS regional agronomists and county Cooperative Extension agents are also good sources of advice. Go to www.ncagr.gov/agronomi/rahome.htm for a list of agronomists and their county assignments.

Classified Ads

Ads are run free for N.C. residents & can be submitted by mail to 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1001; online at www.AgReview.org; or by fax to 919-733-5047. Ads **must** include name, address including zip code, phone number including area code, and *price or price range for every item* being sold.

Deadline for each issue is noon on the first working day of the month prior to publication. Limit is 30 words, editor reserves right to edit or reject ads. Limit 2 ads/person in different categories.



Bees, Supplies
& Services
For Sale

NOTICE

N.C. law requires a permit to sell honey bees in the state. A permit is not required for: The sale of less than 10 bee hives in a calendar year, a one-time going-out-of-business sale of less than 50 hives, or the renting of bees for polination purposes or their movement to gather honey.

Contact Don Hopkins, state apiarist, NCDA&CS, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 for information.

BEES

5-frame nucs, very strong, Carolina raised queen, p/u early April, \$175 w/\$100 deposit. Bryan Fisher, Concord 980-521-8642.

Overwintered 5-frame nucs, in pro-nuc box, avail mid-March, \$145. Jeff Telander, Elon 919-618-8094, telander@gmail.com

Keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services through the department’s blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog or on Facebook or Twitter.

BEEES

5-frame nucs, avail April & May, \$170. Preston Brown, Zebulon 919-404-1441 or 453-8440.

5-frame nucs, avail mid-April pending weather; buyer box, \$150; cardboard nuc box, \$160. Doug Medlin, Marshville 704-774-5355.

3 lb. pkg Italian honeybees, w/Italian or Russian hybrid mated marked queen, p/u 3/27, \$120, deposit required. James Fogleman, Pittsboro 919-542-3157.

Italian honeybee pkg, 3 lbs., p/u 4/4, unmarked queen, \$120; marked queen, \$126; deposit required. Jerry Lambeth, High Point 336-769-9224.

3 lb. pkg honeybees, p/u approx 4/4, hygienic queen, \$125; extra queens, \$35 ea. Larry Tate, Willow Spring 336-972-3583.

Long Lang hive, Top Bar, 8-frame, 5-frame nuc, all w/ bees; marked queens, treated for mites, \$150-\$400. Ken Medlin, Hurdle Mills 336-364-1915.

3 lb. pkg honeybees, avail 3/26, \$110; nucs, \$160; queens, \$26. Garry Whitley, Albemarle 704-982-0698.

5-frame nucs, \$170; 3 lb. pkgs, \$120; queens, \$35; p/u 4/24. Dick Lippard, Statesville 704-682-4018.

5-frame nucs, waxed cardboard box, overwintered queens mid-March, \$195; new queens mid/late April, \$170. Sam Bolick, Concord 704-795-3900.

5-frame nucs, cardboard splits, avail after April, will sell up to 10 nucs, \$150. Jim Holt, Julian 336-601-6139.

Honey extractor, 9-frame, used 4 times, \$350. Jerry Ritchie, Lexington 336-250-9141.



Bees, Supplies & Services Wanted

Motorized radial extrac-tor, GC, must accommodate at least 9 med frames. Jeff Telander, Elon 919-618-8094.

Old wooden nuc boxes; will trade supers. Gary Satterfield, Thomasville 336-906-6817.



Equipment For Sale

MF 39 corn planter, VGC, 2-row, w/row markers, seed plates, rubber pack wheels; fert/seed boxes EC, \$950. James Dodson, Madison 336-613-2259.

Sickle mower to fit 1938 Case tractor, \$200. Barry Sizemore, Midway 336-655-6132.

NH 846 chain rnd baler, manual tie, GC, \$1,600; NH 848 chain baler, needs new bar chain, \$1,200. Phil Jolly, Taylorsville 828-234-1120.

FARM EQUIPMENT

NH 853 baler, 5x5, \$3,800; JD 700 rake, \$3,200; NH 256 rake, \$2,000; NH 260 rake, hyd drive, \$5,000; other equip. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

NH 273 baler, \$2,250; Cole 3 pt fert dist, \$475; NH 1-row tobacco planter, \$350; other equip. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or 399-1973.

2002 NH BR740 rnd baler, silage special, bale slice, net & twine, new belts, 11,000 bales, \$13,000. Gary Abernethy, Hickory 828-294-4497.

2 JD 953 wagons, \$350 ea; JD 1-horse hay rake, \$600. Don Cameron, Sanford 919-499-7012.

JD 4430, cab, 125hp, new parts, \$23,500; 1952 JD B, 3 pt, RG, \$3,650; w/o hitch, \$3,000. Barry Lindley, Pittsboro 919-742-4009.

1976 Cub IH lowboy w/ equip, \$5,500; 1977 JD 830, 38hp, \$7,500; IH 140 tractor, 12v, 6 ft. belly mower, \$4,500. Michael Nardo, Jackson Springs 910-281-3522.

Magnetos, different makes & types, some w/gears, \$75 & up. Bill Payne, Madison 336-707-8840, 6-8 p.m.

Fert/lime spreaders, not working, 2-row, 2 working corn planters, \$250; late model Farmall 140, 1 pt, equip, \$4,350. R. Wilson, Kernersville 336-970-1336.

NH 451 sickle bar, 7 ft., 3 pt hitch mower, EC, \$1,400; Athens chisel plow, Cat II, 5-tine, \$300. George Wilcox, Lumberton 910-739-8802.

Tractor cargo bed, 4x4, welded steel frame, 3 pt, \$300. Johnny Elliott, Harmony 704-614-5006.

M2 gleaner combine, \$5,000. Jim Wehunt, Cherryville 704-692-0891.

MF 35 tractor, gas, completely restored, show quality, LN rubber, everything works, \$5,500. Howard Cline, Maiden 704-483-3612.

Massey 375 tractor, 1,370 hrs., \$11,500; Grain-ovator 10-20 feed cart, elec scales, \$1,000; Kuhn GMD600 disc mower, \$4,800. G. Rayle, Pleasant Garden 336-382-3732.

Rhino DB150 ditch bank mower, 13 ft. reach, EC, used little; requires 60hp tractor, \$6,000. Bob McLeod, Clinton 910-260-0125.

Houle liquid manure tanks & auger pump, 1 ea 4800 & 3400, used recently to empty dairy lagoons, \$5,000. S. Shumaker, Yanceyville 336-514-0841.

Itln bar rake, field ready, \$600 obo. Arlan Hudson, Mt. Pleasant 980-621-6740.

JD X750, 25hp diesel, EC, orig owner, \$8,500. Bobby Miller, Lexington 336-362-3342.

1327 disc mower, EC, sheltered, \$4,500. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

FARM EQUIPMENT

NH 472 haybine, \$2,200; Hale irrig pump, pto, high pressure, \$1,400. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

1952 Farmall Super A, fast hitch, middle & rear cults, rear wheel wghts, sheltered, ready to work, \$2,600. Curtis Fountain, Chinquapin 910-324-6103.

Livestock hay feeders, for all animals, holds entire standard sq bale, easy to move, \$75 for 1, \$50 for ea additional. Jimmy Hensley, Grover 980-721-6340.

Ford 8N & 9N, not running; 9N crankshaft, camshaft, head, manifold, flywheel, clutch, pressure plate, \$2,000/all obo. Johnny Coble, Garland, 910-872-9038.

Hud-Son Oscar 18 bandsaw mill, w/stand, ramp; Grand-berg G777 Alaskan chainsaw mill, \$2,450/both. Tim Crotts, Lawndale 704-692-3201.

Kubota L2350 tractor, 25hp, 4wd, 680 hrs., LB400 front end loader, forks, bucket w/teeth, new tires, \$9,500. Lane Barbee, Richfield 704-773-0752.

IH 574 row crop tobacco special, 1 owner, 65hp, EC, \$8,500. Walter Wyatte, Mebane 336-214-5969.

Frontier RT1142 rotavator, 3 pt, \$1,200. Greg Lowe, Salisbury 704-239-5083, text only.

Used NH 1037 Stackliner, 105 bale cap., cab, open station controls, mostly sheltered, \$8,000. John Burt, Fuquay Varina 919-971-5437.

Case IH 2188 combine, bin extension, other equip, \$21,000 obo; Ford 7710 II tractor, 86hp, \$15,000 obo. William Stinson, Boonville 336-469-0705.

Cattle headgate, hd, manual & auto, \$250. Ed Messer, West Jefferson 336-977-8300.

NH 277 sq baler w/thrower, \$2,500; Cat D7 dozer, elec start, \$9,500; NH 55 rake, \$1,350; other equip. William Long, Mebane 336-376-6603.

2003 NH TN55D tractor, 16-spd trans, cab, 2,951 hrs., \$18,000; JD 500 series hay spear, quick attach, \$550. Johnny Wallace, Huntersville 704-201-4556.

Frick sawmill, 48 in. blade, needs wood, otherwise EC, w/ edger & power units, \$3,500 obo. Richard Drake, Mebane 919-740-1376.

Kuhn GMD 600 GII disc mower, hd, 7 ft. 10 in. cut, EC, \$3,975; Kasco sod drill, 72 in., 9-seed drop, EC, \$6,500. Barry Nesbitt, Salisbury 704-642-0024.

2018 JD 1700XP no till corn planter, 2-row, \$19,995; 2019 Land Pride 706NT no till sm grain drill, \$8,500. Greg Smith, Greensboro 336-337-7571.

2004 Farm Pro 2420 tractor, GC, 2wd, diesel, 149 hrs., good lift/tires, extra equip avail, \$2,500. Robert Johnson, Kernersville 336-788-8402.

FARM EQUIPMENT

1953 AC B, plow & par cult, GC, \$1,800; AC, prof rebuilt eng, plow & par cult, \$2,200. Milt Sharpe, Rocky Mount 252-266-2124.

2015 Claas Variant 380 RC baler, 4x6 rnd, net wrap, endless belts, recutter for silage or dry hay, \$27,000. Hal Chase, Sanford 919-498-4043.

Farmall 140, GC, w/equip, \$4,500. Ron Ray, Whiteville 910-625-6710.

2 BCS 732 rototillers, gear drive, Honda GX340 eng, \$1,000 & \$2,500; 2 in. & 3 in. trash pumps, LNC, \$200 ea. Bill Makuch, Lincolnton 704-930-9398.

2016 JD 625 moco, LNC, mowed approx 200 ac, \$17,500. William Thomas, Pittsboro 919-930-7401 or 742-6114.

JD 2-row planter, row marker, 2 planters for parts, \$450; IH 430 baler, \$2,500; NH 256 rake, \$2,000. T.C. Hege, Lexington 336-247-2824.

Bush hog 6 ft., 3 pt, \$775; Howse 6 ft. bush hog, \$1,475; Land Pride bush hog, 4 ft., 3 pt, \$975. Chris Witherspoon, Valdese 828-381-6957.

JD 720 moco, 9 ft. cut, rubber roll conditioning, 540 pto, new tires, VGC, 1 owner, \$4,500. Donnie Bogle, Salisbury 704-245-4006.

Tires/rims for Kubota M5040, rims 6 in. center, 8-bolt dia, frt tires 11x23, rear tires 23x44, \$1,250/all. Roger Rusnak, Horse Shoe 828-778-6565.

Scrape blade off Rhino BR, 8 ft., \$700. Grady Draughn, Yadkinville 336-468-7889.

2 MF 39 planters, 2-row, need repair, no fert, \$400/both; (4) trip bottom plows, \$250 ea; 4-row Danish tine cult, \$800. Charles Bowers, Clinton 910-592-6792.

1974 MF 135, 1,093 hrs., spin out wheels, ps, diesel, GC; 6 ft. bush hog, 6 ft. blade, \$5,500 nego. Lynn Crissman, Bear Creek 919-837-5747 or 545-1638.

Case 2590, 180hp, cab, duals, \$9,000; KMC 2-row peanut digger, \$600; King 10-tine chisel plow, \$600. Milton Gray, Maysville 910-330-1040.



Equipment Wanted

Feed bin, 10 or 12 ton, X7 ft., 4-leg, GC. John McCurdy, Taylorsville 828-632-9039 or 234-7934.

Detroit 271 power unit w/ clutch, running. William Whitehead, Hampstead 910-270-4614.

Hesston 1110 haybine or Itln 8320 haybine; no junk, must be GC, reasonable price. James Dodson, Madison 336-613-2259.

Ford, Dearborn or Ferguson 2-bottom plows, 16 in. or 14 in; or 3-bottom, 14 in.; mostly for show, but occasional use. Al Mills, Rocky Mount 252-903-4926.

Grain auger, 8 in. or 10 in, 61-70 ft. long. Chris Morgan, China Grove 704-857-9363.

EQUIPMENT WANTED

Factory fork attach for Long 5320 front-end loader; Long quick attach, not skid steer. Gary Michael, Lexington 336-239-3717.

International Scouts, running or not; literature, dealership info, etc. Scott Culbreth, Kinston 252-521-2141, sculbreth@suddenlink.net

NH BR 7060 or BR 740 rnd baler; must have net, be silage special. G. Rayle, Pleasant Garden 336-382-3732.

Mechanical potato digger, working cond. Henry Zehr, Union Grove 336-468-6370.

Used pto generator, GC. Sammy Deal, Statesville 704-500-1783.

JD series 80 planter parts; 371 Detroit diesel power unit w/hand clutch, or any other model. Butch Purser, Monroe 704-219-1544.



Farmland For Sale

Land for sale must consist of at least 3 acres and be used for agricultural purposes, i.e. cultivation, raising livestock and/or other farm commodities.

Advertisers must indicate use of land.

19.47 ac farm Stokes co, 12 ac timber, 7.5 ac for crops/pasture; spring, views of Hanging Rock, Moore's Hob, Pilot Mtn, \$85,000. Ken Lynch, Sandy Ridge 336-707-2762.

53 ac Hwy 87 E Elizabethtown, rd frontage, high elevation, close to beaches; can divide sm ac, \$250,000. Thomas Andrews, Lumberton 910-827-3563.



Farmland Wanted

Deer hunting land for lease, Orange co & surrounding co, 50-200 ac. Alex Webb, Hillsborough 919-259-2621.

Farmland to lease for deer hunting, piedmont area; responsible, ref avail. Jim Bumgarner, Kernersville 336-338-1315.

Land to lease for deer hunting, w/in 1 hr. drive of Lexington. David Watterson, Lexington 336-989-8829.

Yearly hunting lease in or around Johnston, Harnett, Wake co area; will provide insurance. Chris Santos, Garner 910-284-2404.

Farmland to build a house, eastern NC, 10-100 ac. Andy Lutz, Dallas 704-913-0510.



Hay & Grain For Sale

Hay, in shed, never wet, 4x4, \$35; 4x5, \$40. Phillip Cole, Burlington 336-264-4143 or Preston, 447-5593.

Orchard grass/fescue horse hay, no weeds/rain, sheltered, 4x5, \$40/rl; goat & cow hay, sheltered, \$35/rl. Jay Hohn, Archdale 336-289-3686, no texts.

HAY & GRAIN

Fescue, horse quality, \$5.50; cow quality, \$3.50; rnd w/bonnets, \$30/bale; can deliv. Allen Moore, Summerfield 336-706-1157.

Orchard grass, horse quality, 600 sq bales, 45-50 lbs., \$6.15/bale. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or 399-1973.

Oat/fescue & mixed grass, lrg quantity, 4x5, net wrapped, stored inside, deliv possible, \$30/rl. Frankie Shoffner, Liberty 336-339-5961.

Horse quality hay, deliv avail, \$35/rl. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

2020 fescue, \$5/bale; rnd, \$25/bale. Thomas Berrier, Lexington 336-764-1051.

Orchard grass/fescue mix & orchard grass, all horse quality, rnd bales, \$35; sq bales, \$5. Johnny Sowers, Lexington 336-239-3020.

Orchard/fescue mix, spring 2020 cut, in barn, \$5/sq bale. R.A. Eaton, East Bend 336-793-6500.

Orchard grass/fescue mix, horse quality, no rain, in barn, \$5.50/bale. Marshall Ratliff, Reidsville 336-342-0068.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, no rain, sheltered, on pallets, net wrapped, \$40-\$45/bale. Rick Ingram, Greensboro 336-420-9253.

Wheat straw, sm sq bales, \$3.50/bale. Eugene Bunn, Spring Hope 252-903-9980.

Fescue/mixed grass, 4x5 rnd, under shed, \$40/bale; bermuda/mixed grass, sm sq bales, \$5/bale. Lance Bass, Spring Hope 252-478-3169.

Coastal bermuda, horse quality, sheltered, \$45/rnd bale; sq bales, \$6/bale. Phil Hood, Goldsboro 919-689-9798.

2020 fescue/orchard mix, 4x4 rnd, barn stored, fields fert, \$22 cash ea; 10 or more, \$20 ea. Kent Lambeth, Winston Salem 336-209-8962.

4x5 rnd, dry storage, no rain/weeds, 1st cut horse fescue, \$35/rl; 2nd cut cow fescue/pasture grass, \$30/rl. Alice Davis, Salisbury 704-855-4930.

Fescue & fescue/wheat mix, 4x4 rnd, horse quality, inside on pallets, \$30/bale, Chris Spaugh, Clemmons 336-306-2086.

2020 orchard grass, fescue, orchard/fescue, horse, sheep & goat quality, \$5.50-\$8.50/sq bale; other hay avail. Barry Lindley, Pittsboro 919-742-4009.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, fert, no rain, sheltered, \$30/bale. Roger Drum, Statesville 704-880-7006.

Mixed orchard grass, 2020 cut, 4x4 rnd, \$30/bale. Noel McCraw, Hendersonville 828-808-5803.

Fescue, 4x4 rnd, sheltered, \$35/bale. Barry Sizemore, Midway 336-655-6132.

HAY & GRAIN

2020 coastal bermuda grass, ozark variety, 40-45 lbs., no manure for fert, lrg quantity discount, \$8/bale. John Burt, Fuquay Varina 919-971-5437.

Fescue, 4x5 rnd, barn kept, \$30. Bo Potts, Advance 336-998-4960.

Peanut hay, rnd bales, net wrapped, can deliv 42 bales anywhere, \$20/bale. Larry Bullock, Greenville 252-883-4748.



Horses & Supplies For Sale

Horse boarding, 3-stall horse barn, tack room, 1 ac pasture, new horse safe fencing, ref req, \$350/mo. Kent Whicker, Kernersville 336-207-9593.

John Lyons saddle, 15 in., VGC, \$1,000. Julia Sain, Lawndale 704-477-7305.

Lrg horse barn for rent, 180 ft., 8 stalls, riding rink, 6 ac pasture, new woven wire fence, water incld, \$450/mo. Dianne Watterson, Lexington 240-498-0733.

Arabian chestnut geldings, reg, 12 & 13 y/o, 15.1 hands, full brothers, current neg Coggins, \$1,200 ea. W.D. Wood, Garner 919-302-0549.

Smith Worthington Trail Maxx saddle, 17 in. seat, med-wide/wide gullet, EC, \$1,500. Sheila Howell, Mt. Pleasant 704-467-5715.



Livestock For Sale

2 SimAngus bulls, reg, 16 & 18 mo, ai sire Rasin Cain, \$2,000 ea. Aaron Snow, Hamptonville 336-244-2926.

Nigerian dwarf goat kids, adga reg, polled, great blood lines, blue eyes & moonspots possible, \$150-\$350. Tracy Hardin, Forest City 828-248-2125.

Charolais bulls & heifers, pb, reg sires, polled, gentle, 7 mos & up, \$850 & up. Johnny Harrison, Salisbury 704-639-0867.

Dorper ewe w/2 lambs born 12/9/20, \$300. Valleri Reames, Colletsville 828-748-1166, vallerir@gmail.com.

Fainting goats, pb, various colors, male \$200-\$250, female \$300-\$350; blk belly Barbados sheep, pb, males \$200-\$250, females \$300-\$350. Lisa Atkins, Kernersville 336-816-2555 or 816-0847.

3 Dexter heifers, dob 6/12/20, 5/8/20 & 3/20/20, not weaned, doub reg, \$600 & \$700. Thomas Poplin Jonesville, 336-367-7060.

SimAngus & Angus bulls, blk, polled, bred for calving ease, muscle & growth, \$2,000-\$2,500. William Pyle, Franklinton 919 215-5677.

Boer/Nubian mix doe, 5 ½ y/o, possibly bred, \$250. L.A. Mize, Lexington 336-250-4520.

LIVESTOCK

Reg Nubian buck, dob 3/28/12, no failed breedings, well-mannered, easy to handle, closed herd, \$250. Robin Dew, Hiddenite 828-635-7337.

Charolais bulls, steers, & heifers, polled, 7 mo+, \$800 & up. Wilbur Reeves, Statesville, 704-929-0923.

Reg Angus & SimAngus bulls, 15+ m/o, calving ease & efficiency, multiple sires, recent breeding soundness exam, \$2,895. Steve McPherson, Snow Camp 336-263-6042.

Reg Santa Gertrudis, calves, \$650 & up; bulls, \$1,000 & up; cow/calf pairs, \$2,000 & up. Charles O'Bryant III, Reidsville 336-908-0276.

Reg Hereford heifers, 12-15 m/o, \$1,000-\$1,500. Robert Blake, Mt. Gilead 910-428-7619.

2021 Alpine dairy kids, does, bucks, milkers; disbudded, cae-free, can be reg, sires/dams on site, \$100 & up. Donna Albright, Thomasville 336-250-7288.

Pb red bull, polled, 24 m/o, 1,700+ lbs., gentle, great genes, \$1,800. Charles Hursey, Elon 336-516-5193.

Reg Blk Angus bulls, great epd's Freightliner & Cowboy Up blood, weaned to breeding age, photos, \$800 & up. Danny Dennis, Mt. Gilead 910-571-1114.

2 Red Angus bulls, dob 11/19, not reg, ready for service, \$1,500 ea. Tom Chandler, Burlington 336-516-2652.



Livestock Wanted

Miniature donkeys, 6 mos-3 yrs, reasonable price. Roger Kercher, East Bend 336-413-3803.



Poultry & Supplies For Sale

California, silver California, blue scale, gambel; 8 breeds bobwhite, partridge, philby, chukar, others, \$3 & up. Jimmy Furr, Stanfield 704-888-0213.

3 poultry houses for lease or sale, 42 x 500, 2 wells, co water, currently in operation, \$425,000. Tim Eatman, Polkton 704-254-7766.

Ruddy shelducks, \$100 ea; Australian blk swans & mute swans, \$350 & up; Cape Barren geese, \$400 ea. Jim Simpson, Indian Trail 704-361-6497.

Blk shoulder & India blue peacock chicks, \$22-\$25 ea; blk shoulder males, 2 y/o, \$125 & up. Richard Simmons, Clarendon 910-640-7114.

Male goose, 2 y/o, gray, \$35. N. Hobson, Pittsboro 336-376-8137.



Poultry & Supplies Wanted

Game hens & 1 game cock, not for fighting. Dane Hill, Pleasant Garden 336-508-9907.

POULTRY WANTED

Trio of Buff cochin bantams, show quality. Jerry Brigman, Mooresville 704-857-1065.

2 silver Old English female bantams & 2 silver Dutch female bantams, 1-2 y/o, full blood, offer \$10 ea. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-552-6420.

Small Animals For Sale

White NZ rabbits, dob 12/3/20; NZ/Californian/Rex mix, dob 1/15/21, \$25 ea. Austin Hurley, Bear Creek 984-265-9262.



Seeds & Plants For Sale

PLEASE NOTE: Individuals or businesses offering nursery stock for sale in North Carolina are required to obtain either a nursery or nursery dealer license. For more information, contact the NCDA&CS Plant Industry Division at 800-206-9333 or 919-707-3730.

Blueberry plant variety; lrg order discount, covid handling procedures, \$3.50-\$15. Michael Crippen, Garland 910-529-1469.

Cantaloupe seed, SASE + \$3/50 seeds. Gracie Tucker, 2026 Sheppard Mill Rd, Danbury, NC 27016, 336-593-9020.

Dipper gourd seeds, sm bulbs, plant early June, 20-30 gourds/plant, \$3/20 seeds incldng shipping. Tom Helton, 601 Huskey Rd, Ellenboro, NC 28040.

Little white cucumber seeds, SASE + \$1 cash/tsp. Jim Bostian, 6235 River Bend Rd, Claremont, NC 28610, 828-459-9276.

Sunflower seeds, 12-14 lb. flower, 15-18 in. diameter, SASE + \$3/25 seeds; \$5/50 seeds. N. Smoot, 6227 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Cockscomb seeds, huge blossom head, crimson color, 18 in. stalk, about 200 seeds, SASE + \$3 cash. Barry Cox, 6225 Welborn Rd, Trinity, NC 27370.

Old English boxwoods, approx 30 y/o, 18-36 in. tall, old growth, 2 doz avail, \$0.90/in; not a nursery. Gary Michael, Lexington 336-239-3717.

Muscadine & scuppernong plants, 2 gal, potted, healthy, planting/trimming instr incld, \$15 ea. Bob Whitaker, Mocksville 336-469-4822, no texts.

Boxwood bushes, 2-5 ft., around 400 avail, buyer digs, \$10 ea. Rhod Lowe, Salisbury 704-202-9605, Mon-Sat, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

White crepe myrtles, other varieties, 4-5 ft., 1 y/o, \$14.95; 2 y/o, \$19.95; discount for 12 or more. Greg Bruhn, Raleigh 919-790-0480.

Tuberose bulbs, single Mexican, 100+/bx, growing instr incld, \$50; sm quantities/shipping avail. Cathy Reynolds, Salisbury 980-234-2515.



Seeds & Plants Wanted

Horse apple & crabapple trees, can pull up & p/u, \$10; pepper plant seeds, \$2. Robert Burns, Holly Springs 919-552-6420.

Damson tree. Mary Hockaday, Creedmoor 919-528-2410.



Supplies For Sale

Food grade totes, \$100 ea; metal burning barrels, \$10 ea; plastic barrels, solid top, \$10 ea; 55 gal plastic w/lids & rings, \$20 ea; other items. Jeff Brittain, Hickory 828-327-4782.

Alum irrig pipe, 1,000 ft., 3 & 4 in., assorted fittings, \$1,000. Harold Lineberger, Iron Station 704-524-9194.

Wood heater, heats 5 rooms, can be used for cooking, \$600 obo. E. Farrington, Chapel Hill 919-619-7718.

Sawtooth oaks, 1 & 2 y/o, fast growing, p/u only, \$2 & \$5. John Massey, Burlington 336-214-7560.

Log tobacco barn, 18x18 ft., \$1,000. Kenneth Chilton, Pilot Mtn 336-374-2410 or 399-1973.

Taylor water stove, model T-450, used one season, \$4,000. Pelham Jacobs, Hillsborough 919-619-8105.

Sm work table, made of oak, \$20. John McSwain, Shelby 704-482-2912.



Trucks & Trailers For Sale

New landscape trailer, 16 ft., \$3,250. H.O. Davis, Elon 336-260-7606.

1992 Ford F-350 XLT, 5-spd, 7.3 diesel; 1994 4 Star 2-horse trailer, goose-neck, ac/heat, \$20,000/both. Melvin King, Mebane 303-981-8829.

2000 Fox trailer, 14 ft., ramps, dual axle, hd, \$800 obo. Ed Messer, West Jefferson 336-977-8300.

2009 Hudson HTR18 trailer, 9-ton, triaxle, tool box, many upgrades, used little, stored outside, \$3,200. Bill Makuch, Lincolnton 704-930-9398.



Trucks & Trailers Wanted

Sm livestock trailer, open, bumper hitch. William West, Autryville 910-990-0497.

Read more on ag

To keep up with the latest on the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, check out the department's blog at www.ncagr.gov/blog.

Black Cotton brand reshaping story of Black Americans in cotton

Julius Tillery is proud of his family's history and his heritage of Black farmers in Northampton County, but he's much more focused on the future than the past.

He sees his company Black Cotton as a way to revamp the image often associated with Black Americans and cotton.

That's not to say the history of slaves picking cotton is no longer relevant, or that there's not a history of Black American's picking someone else's cotton for low wages.

That history matters, but Tillery is building on his family's unique story in hopes of creating a new narrative.

"So many stories of cotton have always been sad, but we're trying to change the game," Tillery said. "I want people to connect to that – something good."

Through Black Cotton, Tillery and his operations manager Jamaal Garner sell home décor, jewelry and accessories made out of cotton that they grow. Customers can buy directly through the online shop at blackcotton.us. It's figuratively a long way from where his family's cotton growing began, but literally it's on the same land that his great-great grandfather bought after the end of slavery.

That great-great grandfather was D.L. Tillery. He was born in 1871 in the area of Halifax County that eventually became known as Tillery. He was the first person in the family who was born free after the end of slavery. Eventually, he bought farmland about 15 miles east, on the other side of the Roanoke River in the Rich Square area of Northampton County. The currently living Julius Tillery was named after D.L. Tillery's son named Julius.

"We know what poor farming looks like," Tillery said. "We want to operate in a profit margin that would make our ancestors proud. People spend their money on what they want, and we want



In top photo, Julius Tillery, left, is pictured with his father James Jr. (center) and grandfather James Sr. (right). Bottom left, Julius Tillery holds cotton from his family farm. At right, is a cotton wreath that is part of the line of Black Cotton products for sale.

them to spend it on us."

The direct-to-consumer model is proving to be a game-changer for Tillery. He grew up working with his father and grandfather on the farm and wanted to take some responsibility for how to make money on his own. So several years after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with an economics degree, he founded Black Cotton in 2016.

"I always knew eventually I would be responsible for the farm, but economics was always an interest," Tillery said. "I knew farming was tough, and if I could get the best education I could get maybe it'd be a little easier for me."

His childhood friend Garner has been a major part of launching and running the business. He grew up helping family with hogs, corn, potatoes and other produce, but his immediate family didn't farm. So to see Black Cotton grow and set an example for others has been a rewarding experience for him.

"I got a call [from Julius] to get some cotton out of the field because he had an idea to do something different," Garner said. "It hasn't stopped. It just went from one thing to the next. It's gone from seed to actual product."

Garner thinks it's amazing to see the idea grow, to see Black

Cotton in people's homes and to see people giving the company some positive attention. He and Tillery call Black cotton "the new rose" – a reference to the beauty and value associated with Roses. Changing the perception of Black people involved in cotton is also about giving their children and their community something to be proud of. Garner has a nine-year-old daughter and four sons ranging in age from 1 to 13 years old. Tillery has a new son who's just three months old.

"With the history behind it, people tend to want to get away from cotton," Garner said. "But

we have a goal to change our children's lives, so they can change their children's lives. It's nice to know something is happening because we're putting in the work."

Black Cotton has had customers from 40 different states, and it continues to get more and more of a following on social media. Tillery said it's been the best way for the company to network and build a brand showing people why they do what they do. He still hopes to grow more and be highlighted in more stores.

We hope to be what Levi's is for California," Tillery said. "In northeastern North Carolina, we're known for disinvestment, and we want to be able to change that and help the community."

It's not all business for Tillery though. He's committed to being part of the community, including the agricultural community that he believes brings so much value to the state. He is on the staff of the nonprofit organization Black Family Land Trust as the N.C. State Coordinator, and Gov. Cooper appointed him to the N.C. Forestry Advisory Council. He's on the Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Administrative Council, the N.C. Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee and a local charter school's board.

"Our state has done a lot to serve people through agriculture, and I want to be part of that – serving my community through agriculture," Tillery said.

He sees agriculture as a way to lift the state's economy and to build bridges – an opportunity for local and state leaders to come together on ways to make life the best it can be in North Carolina.

"For example, I'm supporting Black agriculture, but you don't have to be Black to support us," Tillery said. "I see farming as a lifetime thing, and I want to be part of good change."

Fifth generation carries on ag legacy for Braswell Family Farm

On social media, we post a Farm Feature Friday showcasing one of our dedicated North Carolina farmers. Be sure to tune in each Friday afternoon to our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages and help show your support for our local farmers!

Trey Braswell, of Braswell Family Farm, grew up with a strong love and heart for agriculture. In his high school years, Trey was involved with the building of the farms grading plant and took many poultry science classes throughout college at N.C. State University. Although he ventured away for a short time, the calling of his family farm in Nashville quickly brought him back home.

Braswell Family Farm dates to Trey's great-grandad, Ronald, who bought Boddie Mill in 1943, with his brother Joe, because the small family farm was not



enough to support all the children in their generation. Since that day, by God's grace, the family business has grown to house 1.8 million laying hens, in all types of

egg-farming environments, and provide some of the state's best nutritional, value-added, high-quality eggs. "We have a variety of chickens, some that lay brown



Photo at left, L to R, Mary Scott Anderson, Jack Anderson, Douglas Anderson, Mary Lou Braswell, Mathew Anderson, Wimberly Braswell, Gardner Mae Braswell, Ronald "Trey" Braswell III, Ellie Grace Braswell.

eggs and some that lay white eggs," Trey says, "about a third of those eggs are cage-free and organic. We hope to bring that number up to half in the next five to ten years."

As manager of both farm animals and employees, Trey's life on the farm can vary from

(See Braswell Farm, pg. 4)